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1. SENIOR OFFICIALS HERE HAVE FORMALLY REQUESTED A SPECIAL NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE ON PACIFICATION TO BE COMPLETED BY 20 JANUARY. ESTIMATE IS TO ASSESS PRESENT STATUS AND NEAR TERM PROSPECTS (VIEWED WITH REALISTIC CANDOR). OUR PRESENT ~~MASTERS~~ ¹⁵ RECOGNIZE THAT ANY SUCH ESTIMATE ^A ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE SPRINKLED WITH DIFFERING OR DISSENTING VIEWS, BUT APPARENTLY THEY WANT A FULL DRESS STUDY WHICH WILL GIVE THEIR SUCCESSORS AN ANALYSIS OF THE PROBLEMS AND A REFLECTION OF THE VARYING OPINIONS HELD WITHIN THE OFFICIAL COMMUNITY. ^{OBVIOUSLY} ~~NATURALLY~~ WE NEED YOUR THOUGHTS TO FACTOR INTO OUR BASIC DRAFT.

2. THE SHORT FUSED BUT UNDERSTANDABLE DEADLINE WILL
CONTINUED.....

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MAKE IT NECESSARY TO CONCENTRATE ON PACIFICATION AS AN OVERALL EFFORT WITHOUT DWELLING IN DETAIL ON INDIVIDUAL AND DIVERSE SINGLE PROGRAMS. IN OFFERING YOUR COMMENTS, HOWEVER, FEEL FREE TO EMPHASIZE OR ILLUSTRATE ANY GENERAL POINTS YOU WANT TO MAKE BY REFERENCES TO SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.

3. IN ESSENCE, WE NEED YOUR VIEWS ON FIVE ASPECTS OF PACIFICATION. FIRST, ITS OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS AND ANY FACTORS WHICH YOU FEEL ARE CRUCIAL IN THIS REGARD. SECONDLY, WE WOULD LIKE YOUR JUDGMENT AS TO THE CURRENT VULNERABILITIES OF THE PACIFICATION PROGRAM. (WHERE ARE ITS WEAK POINTS, EITHER ORGANIZATIONALLY OR GEOGRAPHICALLY?) THIRDLY, IN VIEW OF THE EVENTS OF THE LAST FEW MONTHS, KIX WHAT IS THE GVN'S CURRENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS PACIFICATION AND WHAT DEGREE OF SUPPORT ARE OUR VIETNAMESE ALLIES REALLY WILLING AND ABLE

CONTINUED.....

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TO PROVIDE. FOURTHLY, WE NEED A SUMMARY OF THE COUNTER-
MEASURES BEING TAKEN BY THE ENEMY AND YOUR JUDGMENT AS TO THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF THESE COUNTERMEASURES. FIFTHLY, WE SOLICIT YOUR
VIEWS AS TO THE OVERALL PROSPECTS FOR PACIFICATION IN THE
NEXT SIX TO TWELVE MONTHS.

4. THE DEADLINE IMPOSED FOR THIS ESTIMATE PRECLUDES A
MASSIVE RESEARCH OR DATA-GATHERING PROJECT. WE NEED YOUR
RESPONSE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, BY 6 JANUARY 1969, OR AT THE VERY
LATEST BY 7 JANUARY. WHAT IS NECESSARY AND DESIRED ARE YOUR
GENERAL JUDGMENTS AND OPINIONS ON ~~THESE~~ THESE MATTERS
RATHER THAN A DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE MERITS OF ANY
INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS.

END OF MESSAGE

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George A. Carver Jr

C/SAVA

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